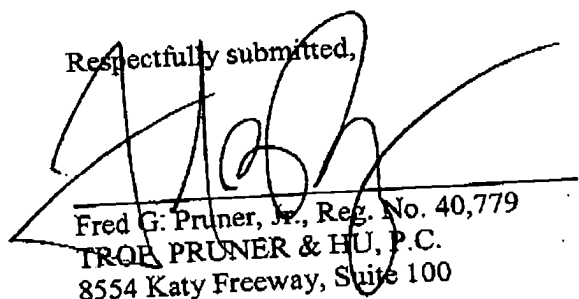


REMARKS

This Amendment cancels claims 1-5, 14-17, 19-23 and 27-29, leaving only allowed claims 30-44 in the application. Because the cancellation of these claims does not require further consideration and/or search by the Examiner and places the application in condition for allowance, entry of this amendment is requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0644US).

Date: December 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

  
Fred G. Pruner, Jr., Reg. No. 40,779  
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.  
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100  
Houston, TX 77024  
713/468-8880 [Phone]/713/468-8883 [Fax]